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# **WATER QUALITY**

## *Non-toxic Alternatives*

**You can help to save the environment.**

**Soil Conservation Service • Hawaii**

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## Non-Toxic alternatives to household cleaners

Product	Alternative
Drain cleaner	Pour 1/2 cup of baking soda and 1/2 cup vinegar down the drain. Let sit for a minute and pour a full pot of boiling water down the drain. Use a plunger or metal snake; flush weekly with boiling water to prevent clogs; use drain strainer.
Oven cleaner	Sprinkle with baking soda and water; pour salt on spills while warm, scrub next day; 1/4 cup ammonia placed in the oven overnight; use oven liners.
Toilet cleaner	If bowl is stained, use a 1 cup paste of lemon juice and borax. Coat the stains, let sit and scrub toilet with brush. For regular cleaning, add baking soda and brush.
Spot removers	Lemon juice, club soda; immediate cold water.
Mothballs	Cedar chips, dried herbs.
Powdered cleaners	Baking soda or mild detergent and elbow grease.
Silver polish	Soak silver in 1 quart water, 2 tablespoons baking soda, 1 tablespoon salt and a small piece of aluminum foil.
Window cleaner	Use 1 cup of vinegar in 1 quart water; rub dry with newspapers.
Laundry detergent	Use as little as possible; use low- or no-phosphate detergents.
Copper cleaner	Rub with vinegar and salt.
Wood floor cleaning	Half mineral oil and vinegar solution; mineral oil.
Linoleum floor wax & cleaner	Damp mop with oil soap; mix one cup white vinegar with two gallons water to remove grease film; polish with club soda; add skim milk to rinse water for shine.
Furniture polish	Combine equal parts mineral oil with lemon oil (Do not melt over open flame as it becomes difficult to extinguish).



## Non-Toxic alternatives to aerosol sprays

Product	Alternative
Deodorants	Roll-ons, creams, sticks, non-aerosol pump sprays.
Hair spray	Setting lotions, gels, non-aerosol pump sprays.
Shaving cream	Brush and shaving soap.
Air fresheners	Ventilate; place a box of baking soda in enclosed areas; set out vinegar in open dish; fresh flowers and herbs; add cloves and cinnamon to boiling water, let simmer.
Disinfectants	1/4 cup vinegar to one quart warm water; air out beddings; keep bathrooms dry.







## *What are non-toxic alternatives?*

Many common household cleaning products contain dangerous ingredients such as caustics or solvents, which when used, stored, or disposed of improperly, could threaten your family's health or damage the environment. Fortunately, most households have the basic ingredients for safer substitutes for many of these hazardous household materials. Additionally, there is an increasing number of environmentally safe products on the market. **To avoid a highly poisonous gas called Chlorine Gas, remember never to mix ammonia with bleach.**

Aerosols are made up of one-half ingredient and one-half liquid or gaseous propellant under pressure. Some contain organic solvents to dissolve or suspend substances including petroleum distillates, toluene, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and ketones. Mist particles from the aerosol cans are also potentially explosive and dangerous not only to you, but also to sanitation workers.

## *Water Facts*

- Leaving grass clippings on your lawn after you mow is a good, natural way to fertilize and minimize use of chemicals that could contaminate water.
- Attracting birds to your home is an excellent way to get rid of pesky insects and minimize use of pesticides that could enter you town's water supply.
- More pesticides contaminate water than any other substance and we use more than 1 billion pounds each year. Find alternatives to harmful, toxic pest killers for your garden. Geraniums, for example, repel Japanese beetles, garlic and mint repel aphids, and marigolds repel whiteflies.





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